THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of foodgrains and oilseeds in the country during 2002-2003 *vis-a-vis* 2001-2002 is as given in the Statement below :

(Million Tonnes)

	2002-2003*	2001-2002	% Fall in 2002-2003
Foodgrains	184.06	212.02	13.19%
Oilseeds#	15.57	20.46	23.90%

* Third Advance Estimates as on 4-4-2003.

Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed and mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean.

(c) and (d) As the stock position of foodgrains in the country is well above the buffer norm, there is no crisis. No unusual price rise in case of foodgrains is anticipated. In fact, the annual rise (point to point) in Wholesale Price Index (Base : 1993-1994) of foodgrains as on 5-4-2003 was 4.7% as compared to 6.2% for all commodities. Thus, the price-rise in case of foodgrains has been lower than the overall price rise.

As regards oilseeds, the import of edible oils is allowed freely. This would help bridge the gap between domestic demand and production, and also help in reducing the pressure on the prices.

NAIS in Punjab

3729. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers benefited by Crop Insurance Scheme in Punjab during the year 2002-2003, district-wise; and

(b) the amount received by the farmers under this scheme and the role played by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Punjab State Government has not opted for the implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) till date.

(b) Question does not arise.

Expenditure on R & D for Agriculture

†3730. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) what is the minimum percentage of gross agricultural production which Government spend every year for the purpose of research and development related work for agricultural development and extension in the country;

(b) the details of said expenditure during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that various Committees have recommended at least one per cent expenditure for this purpose;

(d) if so, the name of those Committees; and

(e) what action Government have taken for the implementation of those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The percentage of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product being spent by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education on Agricultural Research, Education and Extension activities is approximately 0.3%.

(b) The details of amount spent during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in lakh)

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Plan	455.00	516.04	668.95
Non-Plan	790.64	703.64	618.85
TOTAL :	1245.64	1219.68	1287.80

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Ninth-Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended to spend atleast one per cent of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product on Agricultural Research, Education and Extension. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and the Tenth Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education have also reiterated the same. The Department is persistently pursuing the matter with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for higher allocation.

Central Dairy Research Institute in Karnal

†3731. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether calves are born at Central Dairy Research Institute, Karnal;

(b) if so, the number of he-calves/she-calves born every year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.